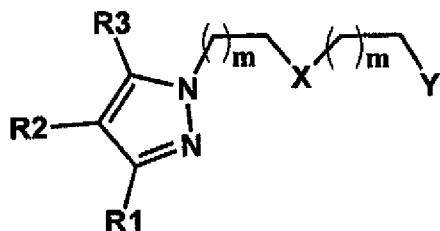


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1;

X is  $\text{NR}_4$  or S;

Y is  $\text{SR}_5$ ,  $\text{NHR}_5$  or  $\text{P}(\text{R}_5)_2$ ;

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

$\text{R}_2$  is H, COOH,  $\text{NHR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_4$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_5$  is H, alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

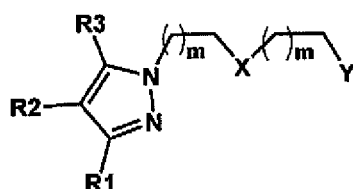
$\text{R}_6$  is H, alkyl or aryl;

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10; and

wherein at least one of  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_4$ ,  $\text{R}_5$ , and  $\text{R}_6$  is phenyl or benzyl.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein  $m$  is 0 or 1;

$X$  is  $\text{NR}_4$  or  $\text{S}$ ;

$Y$  is  $\text{SR}_5$ ,  $\text{NHR}_4$  or  $\text{P}(\text{R}_5)_2$ ;

$\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are the same or different and are selected from  $\text{H}$ , alkyl or aryl, wherein at least one of  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_3$  is aryl;

$\text{R}_2$  is  $\text{H}$ ,  $\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{NHR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_4$  is  $\text{H}$ , alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_5$  is  $\text{H}$ , alkyl, aryl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}_6$  or  $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OR}_6$ ;

$\text{R}_6$  is  $\text{H}$ , a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

$n$  is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

39-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) A metal complex comprising the chelating agent of claim 36.

44. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein  $\text{R}_6$  is a biomolecule.

45. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from amino acids, peptides, proteins, oligonucleotides, polynucleotides, and sugars.

46. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of antibodies and ligands of tumor receptors.

47. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of CCK, thioglucose, glucosamine, somatostatin, neurotensin, bombesin, annexin, interleukins, growth factors, steroid hormones and molecules binding to GPIIb/IIIa receptors.

48. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of glucose, thioglucose, and neurotransmitters.

49. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is an inhibitor of the tyrosine kinase activity.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 36, wherein when  $R_1 = R_3 = \text{CH}_3$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are not all three H.

52. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein when  $R_1$  or  $R_3$  is  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are not all three H.

53. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 36, wherein alkyl is a  $\text{C}_1$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_3$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_4$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_5$  alkyl or  $\text{C}_6$  alkyl.

54. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 53, wherein alkyl is methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, isobutyl, *s*-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, *n*-hexyl, isohexyl (2-methylpentyl), neohexyl (2,2-dimethylbutyl), 3-methylpentyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl.

55. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 36, wherein *n* is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

56. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein alkyl is a  $\text{C}_1$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_3$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_4$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_5$  alkyl or  $\text{C}_6$  alkyl.

57. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 56, wherein alkyl is methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, isobutyl, *s*-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, *n*-hexyl, isohexyl (2-methylpentyl), neohexyl (2,2-dimethylbutyl), 3-methylpentyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl.

58. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein *n* is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.